

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER JULY 2025



JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL SCREWS VS PHILLIPS SCREWS

Most people, Hams included, don't know that there are multiple screw types similar to the traditional Phillips. The most popular version is the JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard). While the JIS and Phillips look similar, they are two different designs and should not be interchanged. Using one in place of the other will lead to frustration and a rounded out screw. It seems the JIS screwdriver has a flat cross at its end while the Phillips comes to a point.

Phillips screws and screwdrivers were designed to cam-out; a process in which the screwdriver is meant to jump out of the screw when excessive torque is reached. Among the theories about how the Phillips evolved from the JIS are the danger of over tightening on airplanes or tool longevity. Everyone has experienced a Phillips screwdriver rounding off, or the screwhead itself stripping because of its design.

I have heard the Phillips was developed by Ford Motors to eliminate over torquing screws during the manufacturing process. Others claim the JIS was developed to reduce or eliminate cam-out of Phillips screws.

Most JIS screwdrivers sold today conform to the DIN 5260 or to the newer ISO 8764-1 standard. However, DIN stands for Deutsches Institut für Normung. (German Institute for Standardization), and ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. Neither are Japanese. These manufacturers changed to DIN 5260/ISO 8764-1 is because they are designed to work in both Phillips and JIS screws. As you might expect, this compromise means there is a point at which these screwdrivers don't work well in any screw. The JIS standard screwdriver always outperforms a DIN/ISO screwdriver in the worst of conditions on a JIS screw, and the same is true of **properly** sized Phillips screwdrivers.

If using the right tool for the job is important to you or if you frequently work with Japanese or JIS screws, invest in proper JIS screw drivers that are built to JIS B 4633. I only know of one manufacturer that uses and builds to JIS B 4633, and that is SUNFLAG otherwise known as New Turtle in Japan: More information on Sunflag can be found at <http://www.sunflag.co.jp/english/company/company.html>

Thanks to Rick Robinson, W8ZT for suggesting this topic

BOOK REVIEW
HOW TO CHASE, WORK AND CONFIRM DX
THE EASY WAY

by; Craig E. Buck, K4IA
Easy Way Ham Books--153 pages

Charlie Young, N8RR gave a copy of this book to Dan Hall, KF8BKS and I to read with the condition that we pass it on to other hams when we finished with it. I'm very glad Charlie introduced me to "Buck", K4IA and his "Easy Way" books. This one is easy to read. What little technical jargon used in the book was explained by the author in simple terms without any of the math that makes studying for the Extra level license so time consuming.

K4IA purpose in writing this book is to provide a guide to becoming a DXer with out the tedious work I thought it would be. However, he clearly states he can only provide guidance on working DX the easy way. It is up to the reader "to implement it." In my opinion he does an excellent job of providing the guidance. I hope I do half as well in implementing it!

In all my discussions with Dxers, I had never learned the difference between "countries" and "entities". In fact, I thought a country was automatically an entity. N4IA explains that only ARRL can designate an entity and provides clear examples of how some countries consist of a number of entities. Many of his explanations come from his personal experience in DX. The most obvious example to me was the Lower 48 states are one entity. Alaska and Hawaii, because of their distance from the Lower 48 are two separate entities. Special Areas such as the International Telecommunications Headquarters, 4U1ITU, in Switzerland and The United Nations Building, 4U1UN, in New York City are also designated by ARRL as entities.

Several truisms appear in this book; 1) "The better you are, the less luck required." 2) "...finesse is more valuable than brute force". And 3) "Don't be an aligator, all mouth and no ears". Among others.

One chapter I found especially enlightening was where K4IA explained the DX Code. Here I learned that it isn't just being considerate. Following the Code makes the pile ups go smoother and improves my chances of working a DX. I also appreciated his explanation of how the entity of a remote-operated radio station is determined. Mainly because I hadn't given it any thought until I discovered it in his book. The same thing applies to his explanation of "Confirmed" and "Verified". Since I'm a new ham, his chapter on designing your shack is another one I could stand to read again, and probably will.

Aside from a couple of jarring typos in the text, the only major problem I had with this book is it's size. At six by nine inches there is simply not enough room to reprint the screen shots of his logging system and computer graphs so I can read them without a magnifying glass. Of course, I am old and wear bifocals; so that might not be a valid criticism.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book. It is easy to read, full of interesting stories, and informative. I really can't imagine Charlie Young, N8RR or other ham of his caliber, reading this book to gain an inside track on working DX "The Easy Way". But for me, and other hams just starting their DX journey, it's a valuable introduction to that aspect of the hobby. I will be seeking out other books by K4IA, and recommend other "uncured" hams do the same thing.. Apparently they are available on-line. Look for "Easy Way Ham Books".

THE 67th WEST VIRGINIA STATE AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION

The 67th WV State Amateur Radio Convention is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2025 at the Days Inn Conference and Visitors Center in Flatwoods, WV. There will be a Flea Market (Both inside and outside), several forums, license testing, as well as several door prizes. This convention is always a great opportunity for education and fellowship with old friend and the opportunity to make new ones.

For the latest information on the forums, prizes and the convention in general check with the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council web page at www.qsl.net/wcsarc.

SUMMER SWAP MEET

The Museum of Radio and Technology Summer Swap Meet will be held in the Museum parking lot in Huntington, on Saturday, July 19, 2025. If you have never visited the Museum this is an excellent opportunity to look around and see what you've been missing. You might also just find some odd goodie you didn't know you needed.

SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

Saturday, August 9, 2025
Saturday, August 16th, 2025
Saturday, October 11, 2025
Sunday, November 2, 2025

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Hamfest in Huntington, WV
The Portsmouth (Ohio) Radio Club HamFest
Wood County (WV) Area Hamfest
The Kanawha Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Hamfest

FIELD DAY ON LUNCH TIME LIVE

Tom Gladdis, AB8RL, President of West Virginia Amateur Radio, Steve Hoover, KF8ANK, PIO for Kanawha Amateur Radio Club and I were interviewed by Buzz Browning on WWSA/LP (FM 96.9) during their "Lunch Time Live" broadcast at noon on June 18. WWSA is a low power "Retro-Radio" station located in St. Albans. Their oldies format has a large following in the Kanawha and Putnam Counties area. We hope this interview will bring a number of new people to the Field Day set ups of the two clubs.

WWSA posts interviews on their web page (WWSARadio.com) a day or two after the air date. If you didn't hear us live, you can listen to our interview on-line later at your leisure.

WEST VIRGINIA'S 400 FOOT PEAK TO PEAK

On July 6, 2025 Randy Damron, N8XEA, will be net control for a two meter simplex net connecting the high points of West Virginia. It's a low power net, mostly with handy talkies. Some use rubber duck antennas. Others use high gain beam antennas. Contact N8XEA at randydamron@yahoo.com for more details.

CANADA'S MORSE CODE OR VICTORY NICKEL

Canada's coins saw several changes during the Second World War, in design, and in material. Each change helped the Allies, by reducing the use of raw material needed for weapons, or by raising moral on the home front. The Victory Nickel, issued from 1943 to 1945 is a prime example of both.

The properties of nickel (strength, hardness, ductility, resistance to corrosion, and the ability to maintain strength under high heat) made it in great demand for weaponry during WW II. This resulted in the Victory Nickel being made of Tombac, an alloy of zinc and copper.

The new nickel also had a 12-sided, or dodecagonal, design. The reverse used a large "V", the Roman numeral for 5 and a reminder of Winston Churchills "V for Victory" symbol. The new design also had an unusual, possibly unique, design element along the rim of the reverse. The dots and dashes there were Morse Code for "We Win When We Work Willingly". This was intended to unite the Canadian people and to foster the war effort.

This design continued until 1944 when the need for copper and zinc required a shift to steel plated with nickel, and a very thin plating of chromium to lengthen the life of the coin and reduce wear. Only 8,000 1944 nickels are Tombac. These are valued around \$90. Other Victory Nickels are valued between fifteen cents and six dollars (US).

In 1946 the reverse of the Canadian Nickel returned to the beaver on a rock design first used in 1937. This reverse is still on the Canadian nickel. I do not know of any other coin anywhere in the world which has lettering in Morse Code.

By the way, the US five cent piece made during this same period was not made of nickel either. In the US they were made of silver!

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted back issues of WV SPLATTER on their website at www.wv8ar.com. I have decided to send out the WV Nets and WV Clubs listings as separate documents once each quarter rather than each month to reduce the number of pages sent out over and over. Corrections and updates to those items will be held until the next quarter.

I continually need more and different types of articles for WV SPLATTER. If you know of an event coming up in a couple of months, have an idea for an article you want to write, or something you want me to research and write about, then drop me an email at nettlescreek@frontier.com. I also need photos and artwork each month. Use the same address to submit email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in being on the WV SPLATTER Distribution List. They don't have to be in West Virginia, they don't even have to be a ham.

I was recently asked about including advertisements for ham gear in WV SPLATTER. Ads for ham radio equipment, tools, and related items are welcome. Get them to me by the fifteenth of the month and I'll include them in the next months WV SPLATTER.

73 and thanks to all.

Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

nettlescreek@frontier.com